

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed April 11, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better clarity.

In the Office Action, claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of furthering the prosecution and expediting allowance of the present Application, claims 13-14 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 of claims 13-14 is respectfully requested.

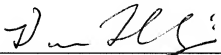
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants

gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 9-10 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claims 1, 7 and 11-13 have been amended to include the features of claim 9. Further, claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 7 and 10-13 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, as claims 2-6, 8 and 14 depend from independent claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectfully request that claims 2-6, 8 and 14 also be allowed.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Enclosure: New Abstract

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